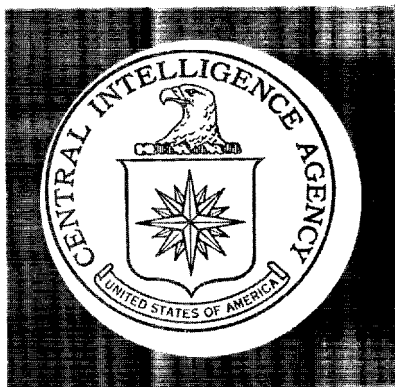


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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# Intelligence Memorandum

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTH VIETNAM SOUTH OF THE 20TH PARALLEL  
(5-11 AUGUST 1968)

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13 AUGUST 1968



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
13 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Recent Activities in North Vietnam  
South of the 20th Parallel  
(5-11 August 1968)

Summary

North Vietnamese logistics activities south of the 20th Parallel continued at a high level during the week of 5-11 August, although some indicators of traffic flows were down slightly from the previous week. Truck sightings were 20 percent below the weekly average noted since 1 April, in part due to poor weather conditions. The Thanh Hoa railroad yard just south of the 20th Parallel has become increasingly active in the past few weeks. Sightings of watercraft, although down slightly from the previous week, remained above levels noted since the bombing halt despite the poor weather.

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Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared jointly by the Office of Economic Research and the Office of Current Intelligence and was coordinated with the Director's Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs.

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Rail Activity

1. The Thanh Hoa railroad yard just south of the 20th Parallel has become increasingly active in recent weeks (see the map). A steady increase in the number of railroad cars at Thanh Hoa has been noted [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] 193 pieces of rolling stock were observed in the yard, [REDACTED] 226 pieces were observed, and [REDACTED] 295 pieces. The low level of supplies and materials located in open storage throughout the yard indicates that cargo is moving through freely and is not being stockpiled. In addition, a new rail spur has been constructed north of the Thanh Hoa railroad yard, connecting the yard and the Song Ma River. This spur can serve as a new rail/water transshipment point, and, when construction currently under way on the north bank of the river is completed, it can be used as a bypass to the Thanh Hoa Railroad Bridge. Construction of this transshipment point/bypass was first observed in January 1968, but work stopped shortly thereafter. Construction resumed after the bombing standdown, and completion of the spur on the south bank was first detected [REDACTED]

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Watercraft

2. [REDACTED] logistics craft continued to be well above the weekly average observed since 1 April, despite poor weather throughout the week, although slightly lower than last week. Most of the sightings were along the Nguon Nay at Quang Khe, along the Kien Giang at Dong Hoi, and near Vinh. Motorized launches pulling strings of POL drums were observed near Quang Khe and Tien Luong, a major supply point seven miles upstream from Quang Khe.

Truck Traffic

3. Truck sightings this week (5-11 August) within the Panhandle of North Vietnam were 35 percent below last week's total, and nearly 20 percent below the weekly average noted since 1 April. The decrease was due in part to poor weather throughout the week [REDACTED]

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sighted continued to be spotted along Routes 71, 72, 82, 15, 101, and 137, the principal inland north-south routes for traffic flowing toward the DMZ and southern Laos. A limited number of truck concentrations were detected. A convoy of about 30 trucks located on Route 71 just south of the sanctuary of the 19th Parallel was repeatedly attacked on the night of 8 August, and the attacks destroyed or damaged all vehicles in the convoy. Later in the week, on 11 August, [redacted] several convoys of 10 to 20 trucks in Route Package I moving south over Routes 101 and 137.

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[redacted] of a segment of Route 15 near the junction of Route 101 revealed nearly 50 trucks heading north and another seven trucks heading south, confirming previously unverified estimates of heavy traffic in this area.

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[redacted] truck sightings, destruction, damage, and effective truck losses are shown in the following tabulation:

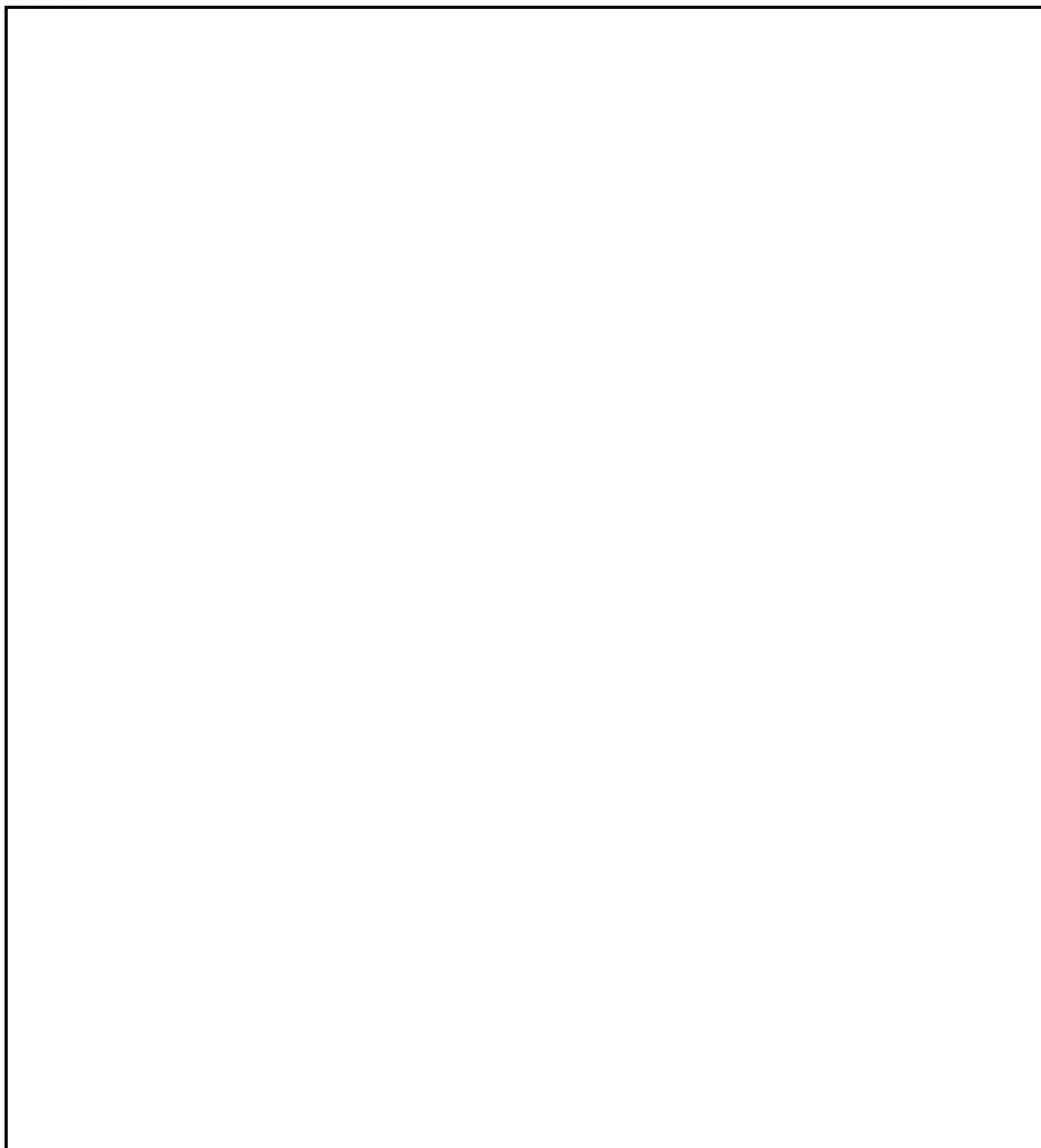
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>De- stroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Total De- stroyed or Damaged</u>	<u>Effective Losses <sup>a/</sup></u>
This week b/ (5-11 Aug)	586	127	104	131	121
Last week (29 Jul- 4 Aug)	907	120	111	231	118
Weekly average (since 1 Apr)	720	121	84	205	112

a. Effective losses are computed by deflating reports of destroyed and damaged trucks -- by assuming that 75 percent of those reported destroyed and 25 percent of those reported damaged are actually destroyed and not returned to service.

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b. Preliminary data.

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Air Operations

5. No significant air activity south of the 20th Parallel was noted during the past week.



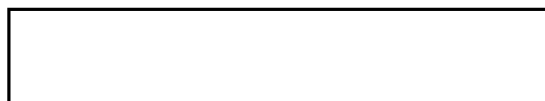
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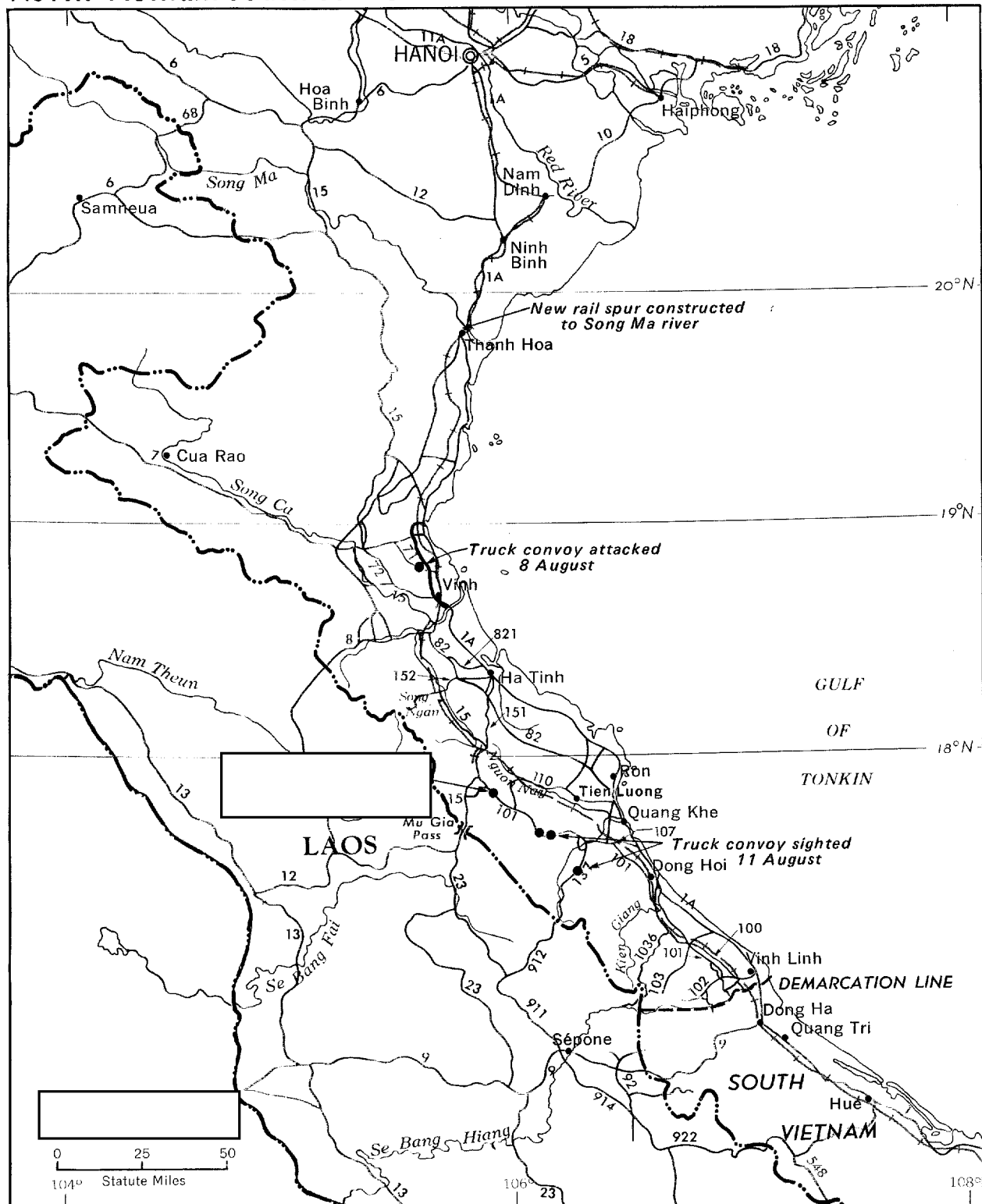


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# North Vietnam South of the 20th Parallel





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